

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 035450
ORIGIN SS-15

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S E C R E T STATE 035450

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT CAIRO 1560 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO TEL AVIV
JERUSALEM SINAI 27 JAN 77

QUOTE S E C R E T CAIRO 1560

EXDIS

EO 11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: PINR, EG
SUBJ: SIILASVUO'S ACCOUNT OF HIS MEETING WITH MINWAR GAMASY

1. UNEF COORDINATOR GEN SIILASVUO CALLED ON AMB TODAY.
HE HAD MET WITH DEP PRIMIN/MINWAR GAMASY LAST EVENING TO
CONVEY TO THE LATTER, FORMALLY, ISRAELI AGREEMENT TO NOTIFY
GOE IN ADVANCE, THROUGH UNEF, OF ANY LARGE SCALE MANEUVERS
IDF INTENDS TO UNDERTAKE IN SINAI.

2. IN THIS CONNECTION, SIILASVUO RECALLED THAT HE HAD EARLIER
MET WITH PERES AND GUR TO DISCUSS THE MATTER OF JOINT
COMMISSION (JC) AND RELATED MATTERS. HE HAD POINTED OUT TO
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SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 035450

PERES THAT, IF THE ISRAELIS WANTED MORE FREQUENT JC MEETINGS,
THERE MUST BE SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT. SINCE ONLY THE ISRELIS
HAVE ANTHING TO GIVE IN SUCH MEETINGS, THE BURDEN OF SCHED-
ULING MEETINGS REST MAINLY WITH THEM. ACCORDING TO SIILASVUO,
PERES AGREED, BUT NOTED THAT THE PROBLEM IS ALSO ONE OF
"ATMOSPHERE". SIILASVUO POINTED OUT TO PERES THAT IT WAS
HARDLY HELPFUL, IN ATMOSPHERIC TERMS, THAT THE IDF BEGAN LARGE

SCALE MANEUVERS IN SINAI VIRTUALLY ON THE DAY OF THE JC MEETING OR THAT AN ISRAELI AIR INTRUSION VIOLATION INTO THE BUFFER ZONE HAD OCCURRED THAT SAME DAY. PERES RESPONDED THAT THE LATTER HAD BEEN A MISTAKE AND WOULD NOT RECUR. HE AGREED TO SIILASVUO'S SUGGESTION THAT THE ISRAELIS WOULD NOTIFY GOE, THROUGH UNEF, OF ANY FUTURE LARGE SCALE MAN-EUVERS IN SINAI.

3. SIILASVUO CONVEYED THE ABOVE TO GAMASY DURING LAST NIGHT'S MEETING. WHILE GAMASY ACCEPTED THE ISRAELI OFFER, SIILASVUO FOUND HIM PESSIMISTIC, GAMASY EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT ONE OF THESE DAYS AN ISRAELI MANEUVER IN SINAI WILL IN FACT UNFOLD INTO AN ISRAELI PREEMPTIVE ATTACK ON EGYPT. GAMASY WAS ALSO PESSIMISTIC ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR ANY PEACE PROCESS IN THE COMING YEAR.

4. ADVERTING TO RIOTS OF LAST WEEK, GAMASY TOLD SIILASVUO THAT HE HOPED THE GENERAL UNDERSTOOD WHAT HAD CAUSED THE DEMONSTRATIONS, BUT APPARENTLY HE DID NOT HIMSELF ELABORATE.

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